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STATINTL

A new doctrine has suddenly developed to meet the new needs of new times. When the Liberals are responsible for a fiasco, there must be no criticism. This doctrine was first adumbrated by James Reston in the *New York Times* of April 28. "The saddest men in Washington these days," he began, "are the intellectuals on the White House staff who helped deal with the Cuban issue: McGeorge Bundy, former dean of the faculty at Harvard; Walt Whitman Rostow of Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Arthur Schlesinger Jr., the Harvard historian."

Reston admitted that "Bundy and Rostow in particular were influential in the planning stage, and are now even more controversial than when they first arrived." Their decision, he conceded, was reached without real staff work, study, or perspective. So "the intellectuals who arrived here as critics are now the objects of criticism themselves." It is the very existence of this counter-criticism, no matter how justified, that worries Mr. Reston: "A moratorium on sniping at the professors might not be a bad idea, for if this brilliant young crowd fails, we might have to tolerate not only defeat but a spasm of anti-intellectualism as well."

(Just how lack of knowledge, judgment and sense on Cuba squares with brilliance, and just why criticism of lack of knowledge, judgment and sense is "anti-intellectualism," are mysteries that we hope the New Frontier

dialecticians will explain more fully in the next hundred days.)

But it remained for Mr. Eisenhower to carry this strange doctrine even further. Asked at a news conference whether the public was entitled to a post-mortem on Cuba, he replied: "Don't go back and rake over the ashes." The worst possible development now, he added, would be to "start witch-hunting."

Nobody, of course, should criticize the wrong people for the wrong things. But what Mr. Eisenhower seemed to be saying is that we should make no public effort to analyze this humiliating and catastrophic blunder, to learn any lessons from it, or to fix responsibility for it: we should continue to put our trust and national destiny in the hands of those who bungled.

Fortunately, there are Democrats who do not accept this doctrine. Senator Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, was openly critical of the role of the Central Intelligence Agency in the Cuban invasion. And the correct doctrine was forcefully stated at the publishers' convention by President Kennedy himself:

"Without debate, without criticism, no Administration can succeed--and no republic can survive."